Fal. You'r welcome, what's your will? giue vs leaue Drawer.

Ford. Sir, *I* am a Gentleman that haue ſpent much, my name is *Broome.*

Fal. Good Maſter *Broome,* I deſire more acquaintance of you.

Ford. Good Sir *Iohn,* *I* ſue for yours; not to charge you, for *I* muſt let you vnderſtand, *I* thinke my ſelfe in better plight for a Lender, then you are; the which hath ſomething emboldned mee to this vnſeaſon'd intruſion: for they ſay, if money goe before, all waies doe lye open.

Fal. Money is a good Souldier (Sir) and will on.

Ford. Troth, and *I* haue a bag of money heere troubles me; if you will helpe to beare it (Sir *Iohn*) take all, or halfe for eaſing me of the carriage.

Fal. Sir, I know not how *I* may deſerue to bee your Porter.

Ford. *I* will tell you Sir, if you will giue mee the hearing.

Fal. Speake (good Maſter *Broome*) *I* ſhall be glad to be your Seruant.

Ford. Sir, *I* heare you are a Scholler; (*I* will be briefe with you) and you haue been a man long knowne to me, though *I* had neuer ſo good meanes as deſire, to make my ſelfe acquainted with you. *I* ſhall diſcouer a thing to you, wherein *I* muſt very much lay open mine own imperfection: but (good Sir *Iohn*) as you haue one eye vpon my follies, as you heare them vnfolded, turne another into the Regiſter of your owne, that *I* may paſſe with a reproofe the eaſier, ſith you your ſelfe know how eaſie it is to be ſuch an offender.

Fal. Very well Sir, proceed.

Ford. There is a Gentlewoman in this Towne, her husbands name is *Ford.*

Fal. Well Sir.

Ford. *I* haue long lou'd her, and *I* proteſt to you, beſtowed much on her; followed her with a doating ob-

ſeruance; ingroſs'd opportun
ſlight occaſion that could bu
her, not onely brought many
giuen largely to many, to kno
briefly, *I* haue purſu'd her, as
hath beene on the wing of all
haue merited, either in my mi
I am ſure *I* haue receiued n
Iewell, that *I* haue purchaſed
hath taught me to ſay this.

"*Loue like a ſhadow flies,*
"*Purſuing that that flies, an*

Fal. Haue you receiu'd no
hands?

Ford. Neuer.

Fal. Haue you importun'd

Ford. Neuer.

Fal. Of what qualitie was yo

Ford. Like a faire houſe, bu
ſo that *I* haue loſt my edifice,
Ierected it.

Fal. To what purpoſe haue

Ford. When I haue told y
Some ſay, that though ſhee a
other places ſhee enlargeth h
is ſhrewd conſtruction made
is the heart of my purpoſe:
cellent breeding, admirable di
authenticke in your place a
for your many warlike, cou
tions.

Fal. O Sir.

Ford. Beleeue it, for you k
it, ſpend it, ſpend more; ſpend
much of your time in exchan
ſiege to the honeſty of this

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merry Wives of Windsor* (STC 22301) LONDON, 1630 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH